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It is impossible, most likely, to ever accomplish everything you want to in life. You can, however, try. “Tuesdays with Morrie” is a great example of this. Henry David Thoreau, in his own way, also tries to get the point of really living across in “Where I Lived and What I Lived For”. “Living like Weasels,” though a bit bizarre, has a good message within it as well. All three of these texts have in common one theme: changing in life. Tuesdays with Morrie has the best, modern, perspective of them all, and is what all of us should judge our lives by. It is about learning and changing, and that’s our theme, to live is to change. We are all born, and we all develop. Through our development we form a personality unique to ourselves. As we get into high school, college, and beyond we still are evolving into our true mold. Once we get a career and a job we settle into our own routines and ways. We have shaped our views, ideas, and ideals. We know what we know and stick to it. We never change—not because we don’t want to, but because we are who we are. Does it really have to be that way? I don’t always like who I am—I don’t want to be this way forever. I have my opinions, and strong beliefs, but if I did not open the door to others I would always lack something.

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In “Where I Lived and What I Lived For,” Henry David Thoreau tries to open our minds eye. I could go deep into what he meant in this great passage about living simply. However, “Where I lived and what I Lived For” will not connect with the majority of people today. The one passage I will quote from it however is an important one, summing up the whole paper, “I went to the woods to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could learn not what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.” (Thoreau para. 17) This sums up the entire passage more than anything. Thoreau’s whole goal was to live simply, and living simply is next to impossible for most of us today. Ah yes, it would require a change within ourselves; a change of what’s important in our lives. Electronics and essential “toys” or just nature. Obviously today the concept of leaving everything behind is next to impossible, but mostly Thoreau is talking about changing attitudes and priorities.

Another essay encouraging us to change attitudes and the way we live is Annie Dillard’s “Living Like Weasels.” The concept of the paper being what the title states. Yes, it is a little weird, at first glance, but the message is there. “I think it would be well, and proper, and obedient, and pure, to grasp your one necessity and not let it go, to dangle from it limp wherever it takes you. Then even death, where you’re going no matter how you live, cannot you part” (Dillard 16). A great message. It’s an analogy about how the weasel lives. We need to take those essential things in life and do whatever makes us happy with them; whether that’s friends, family, wife, husband, boyfriend, girlfriend, job, dreams, etc. That way even in death, we know you took what you had and ran with it. If we don’t do that now, she is encouraging us to change that.